

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KARACH 00352 121408 Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 T-03

GAC-01 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-12 RSR-01 (ADP) W

----- 029486

P R 121045 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7052

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS PK

SUBJECT: REPORT OF ARMED ATTACKS ON TRAIN AND BUSES IN SIND

1. ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) STORY DATELINED HYDERABAD, MAR 11, APPEARED IN THE KARACHI MARCH 12 PAPERS RECOUNTING ARMED ATTACKS ON A PASSENGER TRAIN AND ONE TRUCK AND EIGHT BUSES NIGHT OF FRIDAY MARCH 10. FIRING ON PASSENGER TRAIN TOOK PLACE BETWEEN AMRI AND LAKKY RAILWAY STATIONS ON THE WEST BANK OF THE INDUS SOUTH OF SEHWAN. ONE MAN AND A WOMAN REPORTED WOUNDED IN THIS INCIDENT. BUSES AND TRUCKS WERE FIRED ON IN ABAD, A SMALL VILLAGE NEAR SEHWAN. EIGHT PERSONS REPORTEDLY RECEIVED BULLET WOUNDS IN THIS INCIDENT. FOLLOWING ATTACKS RAIL AND ROAD TRAFFIC BETWEEN DADU AND KORTRI WERE SUSPENDED FOR THE NIGHT. UNITS OF POLICE AND CIVIL ARMED FORCES, FRONTIER CONSTABULARY AND INDUS RANGERS, ARE REPORTED TO HAVE MOVED INTO AREA AND LAID SEIGE TO 200 ARMED BANDITS AT A LOCATION IDENTIFIED AS SAEH SHAHNAING.

2. PERPETRATORS THESE INCIDENTS DESCRIBED AS BANDITS
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PAGE 02 KARACH 00352 121408 Z

ARMED WITH MODERN WEAPONS AND IDENTIFIED IN REPORTS
AS MENGAL TRIBESMEN FROM ADJOINING AREA OF BALUCHISTAN.

3. PRESS SIMULTANEOUSLY ANNOUNCED THAT TIMINGS OF
TRAINS PASSING THROUGH THIS AREA HAVE BEEN CHANGED
THEY WILL PASS THROUGH AREA DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS.

4. COMMENT: THIS AREA OF SIND WHERE THE MOUNTAINS
COME CLOSE TO THE INDUS AND ARE ADJACENT TO LINES OF
COMMUNICATION IS A NATURAL FOR SUCH ATTACKS. THIS
AREA WAS SCENE OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN 1962-64 WHEN
THERE WAS SKIRMISHING BETWEEN THE AYUB GOVERNMENT
AND THE BALUCH. WHETHER OR NOT THESE INCIDENTS POLITICALLY
MOTIVATED IS OPEN TO QUESTION ON BASIS INFORMATION
AVAILABLE. MENGALS DO INHABIT THE ADJOINING AREAS
IN BALUCHISTAN AND INCIDENTS COULD PROVIDE GOVERNMENT
WITH ADDITIONAL AMMUNITION FOR USE IF CONTINUING
ATTACK ON BALUCHISTAN NAB AND EX- CHIEF MINISTER
ATAULLAH MENGAL IS TO BE ESCALATED. HOWEVER, IT
SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT AS WITH MANY OF THE
BALUCH TRIBES THERE IS SPLIT WITHIN THE MENGAL TRIBE.
EVEN IF ITS PROVEN THAT MENGALS WERE INDEED THE
PERPETRATORS OF THESE ATTACKS, IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY
FOLLOW THAT THE TRIBESMEN INVOLVED WERE ACTING UNDER
DIRECTION OF SARDAR ATAULLAH MENGAL. A RIVAL FACTION
OF MENGALS HEADED BY ATAULLAH'S COUSIN, ALI AHMED
MENGAL, COULD BE USING THE CURRENT SITUATION TO
EMBARRASS ATAULLAH, OR IT MIGHT POSSIBLY BE
INVOLVED IN A MORE COMPLEX SCHEME OF PROVOCATION.
DECONTROL 6/30/74.
TIGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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